

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
16 June, 1976

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
 Hon. Kevin Roche
 Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith
 Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.

Staff Present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
 Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
 Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
 Miss Lisa D'Alessandro
 Mrs. Sue A. Kohler
 Mrs. Nancy N. Lusher
 Mr. David L. Miller

National Capital Planning
Commission Staff Present: Mrs. Ellen Gilreath

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Minutes of 20 May, 1976 meeting, approved as amended.

B. Dates of next meetings were set at 28 July and 15 September, 1976.

C. Projected Study of Mall and Adjoining Buildings by National Capital Planning Commission, Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, and Commission of Fine Arts - Report. The Secretary explained that this would be a two and one-half year project consisting principally of two studies: a history of the Mall and its buildings, and a guide to future planning. He said that he needed authorization from the Commission in order to devote some staff time to the project. The members gave their unanimous approval to the Commission's cooperation in this study.

D. Massachusetts Avenue, Buildings for Landmark Designation. Mr. Carson informed the members that there are a substantial number of buildings already documented in the Massachusetts Avenue Architecture books which have not yet been designated as landmarks. He proposed that these be forwarded to the Landmarks Committee for nomination to the National Register in the Category II division. He explained that while all the buildings are included in the Massachusetts Avenue Historic District, this nomination would give them added

psychological and social identity in the event they are threatened with alteration or demolition. The buildings included were: 1219 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; 1732 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; 1520 20th Street, N.W.; 2200 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; 2201 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; 2230 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; 2234 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; 1606 23rd Street, N.W.; 2253 R Street, N.W.; 2305 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; 2306 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; 2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; 2370 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; and 2929 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. The members unanimously approved the nominations.

E. Washington, D.C. Bridges for Landmark Designation. The Assistant Secretary made a similar request for five bridges documented in his book, Bridges and the City of Washington. The bridges are: Chain Bridge, the Pennsylvania Avenue bridge across Rock Creek Park, the Connecticut Avenue bridge over Klinge Valley, the old Harvard Street bridge into the National Zoo, and the Sixteenth Street bridge over Piney Branch. These nominations were also unanimously approved.

F. Signs and Awnings in Georgetown - Article for Publication in the Georgetowner. Mrs. Lusher explained that the Georgetowner article is basically the same as the report which will be issued by the Commission of Fine Arts, except that the Commission's version will include the Shipstead-Luce Act area and will contain appendices, etc. to aid those seeking guidance when making a submission to the Georgetown Board. The Chairman and the other members of the Commission commended Mrs. Lusher for the excellent quality of her work and unanimously approved it.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. Federal Reserve Board

Proposed Siting of Sculpture, Federal Reserve Board Headquarters, 22nd and C Streets, N.W. The Secretary told the members that the Federal Reserve Board would like to place a steel sculpture on the podium at the east end of their new building. He introduced Mary Anne Goley from the Fine Arts program of the Federal Reserve Board who showed photographs of the sculpture. She explained that it was a low piece which would not interfere visually with the existing fountain in the area and would be set on a base of the same kind of granite as the podium. The members had no objections and the request was approved.

EXHIBIT A

B. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Gangplank Restaurant, Site "E", Southwest Waterfront - Revised Designs. The Assistant Secretary pointed out the location of the res-

taurant on a map of the waterfront. He introduced Mr. Stanley Sherman of the Department of Housing and Community Development who explained the project briefly and then called on Mr. Douglas Carter, the architect, who discussed his design for the two-level floating restaurant and for the remodeling of an existing building on the pier which would contain small shops. The members had no objections to the overall concept but were concerned about the slatted, prow-shaped roof structure which was designed ostensibly to hide the air conditioning units, which Mr. Roche termed an "attention-getting device". There was also some apprehension that the floating barge might attract floating trash, giving the diners a rather unappetizing view. The architect said he was aware of this problem and would study it further. The project was not approved, and Mr. Carter was asked to make a resubmission showing new designs for the roof structure.

EXHIBIT B

C. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 76-56, 1776 D Street, N.W., Daughters of the American Revolution Headquarters, Proposed Driveway and Parking. The Secretary told the members that when they first saw this project it was submitted only informally by the DAR to get the Commission's feeling on completing a driveway on the C Street side of their building in order to provide special occasion parking. The Commission at that time disapproved the request. The Secretary showed the members a plan of the existing driveway and the proposed addition to it. He introduced Mrs. Kelly of the DAR who explained that they wanted to complete the driveway primarily for safety reasons, so that service trucks would no longer have to back out into C Street. The driveway would be substantially hidden by planting, and the alteration would also allow them better to screen the trash collection area from public view. Mrs. Kelly emphasized the fact that there would be no designated employee parking. The D.C. Permit Office would disallow parking in the proposed drive. On this basis the Commission unanimously approved the extension of the driveway.

2. Appendix 1, approved.

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 76-164, 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Office, Hotel and Retail over Plaza and Parking Deck. The Assistant Secretary reviewed this project, which had been submitted previously. He pointed out the site on a map and showed the relation of this to other large projects planned for the area. The members were reminded that at the time of the first submission they recommended additional study of the massing, particularly on the Rock Creek Park and Pennsylvania Avenue

elevations, and development of facade details. Mr. Childs of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, the architects, was introduced and explained, through the use of a model, what had been accomplished since the first presentation. He said that the placing of mechanical equipment had been studied intensively and he believed it was now placed as inconspicuously as possible. He also stated that a fenestration pattern had been developed for the hotel using windows set back with a slight reveal on the lower floors and a deeper recess on the top floor to form balconies with iron railings and, perhaps, awnings. The materials for the building would be red brick, similar in color to that used on the Heurich Mansion (Columbia Historical Society) on its Sunderland Place facade, with brownstone lintels on the windows. The Chairman thought that the use of a different color and material for the lintels would do much to alleviate what could be a very large facade of punched-out windows facing Rock Creek Park. When asked about the color of the window glass Mr. Childs replied that it would probably be tinted a light bronze.

Mr. Childs next discussed the use of a free-standing tower on Pennsylvania Avenue. He stated that there are already two "exclamation points" on M Street in Georgetown - the old Car Barn tower at Key Bridge and the Riggs Bank dome halfway through the town - and that there should be a third such point at the eastern terminus. He stressed the importance of having a "presence" here where Pennsylvania Avenue and M Street merge, the eastern gateway to Georgetown. The tower would give the needed punctuation mark to this end of M Street. While there was no objection to the use of the tower as such, there was general dissatisfaction with the whole treatment of the Pennsylvania Avenue corner. The chairman felt that there should be some kind of deference here to the Georgetown scale, perhaps achieved by cutting back the corner to some degree or recessing the top floor at this point. Mr. Roche suggested that if this meant the loss of too much space, it could perhaps be picked up by moving out a section of the wall on the Rock Creek Park side near the corner. This would relieve the great unbroken mass on the Park and also give added emphasis to the porte-cochere and the tower. The members agreed that the important thing was that this corner should be a focal point, compatible in scale with the rest of Georgetown, and not, as Mrs. Smith commented, "just the end of a building."

The Assistant Secretary introduced Hon. Olcott Deming of the Citizens Association of Georgetown who expressed the Association's approval of the sensitive way in which this project had been approached in relation to the historic character of Georgetown.

Mr. Benjamin Jacobs, the owner, also spoke to the members, pointing out that while he had kept the density of his project below that allowed, in deference to the special character of Georgetown, he was in a very sensitive position economically with a hotel of only 250

rooms, and he thought the Commission should be aware of that fact in making its recommendations.

The project was generally approved by the Commission, with the exception of the Pennsylvania Avenue corner. It was requested that further study be given to this element and alternative solutions submitted at a further meeting.

2. OG 76-165, 3000 M Street, N.W., Hotel/Office/Commercial Complex. This resubmission was presented by the Assistant Secretary, who stated that the architects had made changes based on recommendations by the Commission and the Georgetown Board and were presenting a revised design. It was also explained that the Georgetown Board had seen these latest revisions and felt that sufficient progress had been made so that a general go-ahead could be given if the members of the Commission agreed. The Assistant Secretary pointed out the changes that had been made in the M Street facade so that it would be more in harmony with the other structures on the street and also showed the revised design for the bridges (now arched below) which connect the various elements of the complex.

The members of the Georgetown Board were present and commented on the design. Mr. Vanderpool said that the Georgetown Board had had a very difficult time with this project, but that he believed that the general concept had been improved to the point where the architect could proceed into more detailed drawings. Ms. Vytlačil felt that the two-story arches on the Marbury Place facade were very awkward and were certainly not traditional, if that was what the developer was seeking in this building. Mr. Wright was concerned that the developer was exceeding zoning limitations for that portion of the structure which lies in a mixed use, rather than commercial, zoning area.

The developer, Mr. Al Wheeler, spoke briefly and stated that the design concept for his building represented what he thought was the Georgetown character.

The Chairman told Mr. Wheeler that he could go ahead with the project providing the Commission sees details as they develop. He also stressed that the zoning question must be resolved as soon as possible. In regard to the design of the arches on Marbury Place, he suggested that Mr. Wheeler might reconsider their design even though, strictly speaking, this elevation does not fall under the purview of the Commission of Fine Arts as it is not seen from public space.

3. Appendix 2, approved.

D. Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry

1. Distinguished Service Medal, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.
2. Distinguished Public Service Medal, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.
3. Exceptional Service Medal, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.
4. Outstanding Public Service Medal, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.

Mr. Carson Showed the members designs for all four medals and they were approved unanimously.

EXHIBIT C

III. LEGISLATION

H. J. Res. 954, 94th Congress, "To authorize the Committee for an American Hungarian Bicentennial Monument, Incorporated, to erect a monument in honor of the late Colonel Michael Korvats de Fabrici in the District of Columbia or its environs." The Assistant Secretary explained that approval of the Commission of Fine Arts was needed before the project could be undertaken. The members consented unanimously.

EXHIBIT D

IV. ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

A. The Chairman noted that in a letter delivered to the Commission that morning the National Park Service had requested clarification of the Commission's action on the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial at the May meeting, and it was agreed that a letter be sent in reply.

B. It was unanimously resolved that an official letter be sent to the National Park Service, advising them that the statue of Don Quixote, recently placed on the Kennedy Center grounds, had been placed incorrectly and requesting that it be moved to the position originally approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. It was unanimously agreed that such a resolution should be drafted.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Signed,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO

CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH

JANE O. DART

EDWARD STONE, JR.

KEVIN ROCHE

GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

23 June, 1976

Dear Ms. Goley:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the designs and proposed site for a piece of sculpture by Isaac W. Witkin to be located on the southeast plaza of the new Federal Reserve Board Building. The Commission was delighted with the proposal and in approving it we offer any further assistance in base design or the position of the piece.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Ms. Mary Anne Goley
Consultant Fine Arts Program
Board of Governors
Federal Reserve System
Washington, D.C. 20551

Exhibit A.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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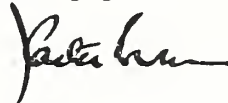
23 June, 1976

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for the Gangplank Restaurant, Site "E", Southwest Waterfront, and has asked for some additional study. Though the overall scheme, landscaping, parking lot, and sign either now meet, or have met, with the Commission's approval, we do question the size and rakish angle of the restaurant rooftop trellis. If this element were quieter it would be more in keeping with the unified architectural character long established for the Waterfront.

The Commission next meets on July 28th and September 15th, 1976. We will be happy to discuss further design studies at either time. Our staff will be delighted to work with the architect and the Department of Housing and Community Development in the meantime.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Lorenzo Jacobs
Director
D.C. Department of Housing and
Community Development
14th & E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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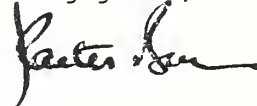
708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

23 June, 1976

Dear Colonel Spittler:

The Commission of Fine Arts examined designs for Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences medals at its June 16th meeting. We approve them and look forward to a continued close working relationship with the Institute of Heraldry.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Col. Charles R. Spittler
Director
Institute of Heraldry
Department of the Army
Cameron Station
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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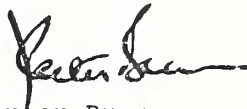
23 June, 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed proposed legislation, H. J. Res. 954, 94th Congress, and approved the concept for an American Hungarian Monument. As already provided in the legislation, we feel that proper review by this Commission, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Secretary of the Interior is necessary if the best possible design and site are to be insured.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised us they have no objection to the issuance of this report.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Hon. Lucien N. Nedzi
Chairman
Subcommittee on Library and Memorials
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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23 June, 1976

Dear Mr. Fahey:

The Commission of Fine Arts has been reviewing designs for two hotel/office/commercial projects on the Georgetown Waterfront. Known as 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. and 3000 M Street, N.W., both have been referred through the Permit Branch as required by the Old Georgetown Act. Though this Commission has given preliminary approval to both projects, we have made it quite clear to the developers that we are recommending no design that would require zoning permitting an increase in density or bulk in this very critical area of the historic district. In each case we have been assured by the developers that their intention is to follow the existing zoning regulations. Therefore any approvals from this Commission are contingent on following the proper controls as set forth by your office and the Zoning Commission. We understand that your office will be reviewing these projects and offer any assistance should there be any question as to the Commission of Fine Arts' position.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. James J. Fahey
Buildings, Housing and Zoning
D.C. Department of Economic Development
Room 208, 614 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

16 June, 1976

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 76-147	3000 M Street, N.W. Gus Levathes	Construction of hotel, office, and commercial complex (resubmission refer to OG 76-122).
ACTION:	VOID -- Superseded by OG 76-160. 5/28/76	
151	1335 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Evelyn & LeRoy T. Lawson	Set up sidewalk cafe along north wall of building. Cafe will be on Dumbarton Street. Area will be surrounded by planters, with seating capacity of 36. Umbrella tables will be used, sidewalk width left is 6'8".
ACTION:	Issue permit. Recommend that table umbrellas be of canvas or vinyl fabric. 6/26/76	
152	3104 Q Street, N.W. Oswald Johnson	Addition per plans.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 5/26/76	
153	3320 Dent Place, N.W. Opal Gooden & Mary M. Cannon	Remove existing overhang over front steps; build new portico (frame, stained brown, bronze plexiglas); paint house brown to match stained wood, white trim.
ACTION:	Issue permit for entrance canopy and for shutters proposed for second floor windows (see attached letter dated May 24, 1976). 5/26/76	
154	1600 Avon Place, N.W. Arthur Cotton Moore	Entrance canopy.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 5/26/76	
155	3001 M Street, N.W. Historic Georgetown, Inc.	Erection of 12" x 18" bronze plaque outlining history of building.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 5/26/76	
156	1207 31st Street, N.W. Gigi Jewelers	Double-faced outside sign (resubmission refer to OG 76-144).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 5/26/76	
157	2914 M Street, N.W. R. Wesley Rivel	Sign, 1'2" x 5'4", flush beneath display window, black lettering on ivory background.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 5/26/76	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

16 June, 1976

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
OG 76-158	3203 R Street, N.W. Arthur Frank	Demolish decayed wooden porch and replace with new wooden porch of identical size, structure, design and materials.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 5/26/76	
159	Rear 1073 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. R. L. Simpson	Replace two windows.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 5/26/76	
160	3000 M Street, N.W. Gus Levathes	Construction of hotel, office, and commercial complex (resubmission refer to OG 76-147).
ACTION:	VOID -- Superseded by OG 76-165. 6/10/76	
161	2821 N Street, N.W. Bernard Mandelkern	Construct new front entry to first floor (resubmission refer to OG 76-146).
ACTION:	Issue permit for new work to match detailing of identical steps on adjacent property. 5/26/76	
162	3400 R Street, N.W. Joseph Kraft	Construct dormer windows on rear roof (resubmission refer to OG 76-131).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/10/76	
163	3401 K Street, N.W. United Investors	Install tenant parking and exterior entrances.
ACTION:	Issue permit. New masonry shall match existing. 6/10/76	
166	1054 31st Street, N.W. Richard Bernstein	Install awning.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/10/76	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

16 June, 1976

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
SL 76-53	600 20th Street, N.W. George Washington University	Replace existing main entrance doors to facilitate locking and unlocking by residents.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/7/76	
54	4875 Colorado Avenue, N.W. Mr. & Mrs. Delma Robinson	Construction of new three-bedroom detached single-family dwelling (resubmission refer to SL 76-45).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/7/76	
55	1 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. National Guard Association of the United States	Sign to carry notices of museum exhibits. Removable pylon. Supports are three 1 1/2" diameter steel pipes set in pipe sleeves in concrete. Face size 2'8" x 7'6".
ACTION:	Approved for issuance of permit. 5/27/76	

1976-06-16
Jun 23, 2017